

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-43 are pending. Claims 12, 17, 18, 31, 33, 34, and 42 are withdrawn from consideration.

The Examiner has indicated that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: Group 1 – Figures 1-3 and 6-8; Group 2 – Figures 4 and 5; and Group 3 – Figures 9-12, and has required election of one of the species for prosecution on the merits.

The Applicants hereby elect Group 1, the species illustrated in Figs. 1-3 and 6-8, without traverse, for prosecution on the merits. Claims 1-11, 13-16, 19-30, 32, 35-41, and 43 read on the elected species. Claims 12, 17, 18, 31, 33, 34, and 42 are withdrawn from consideration, as they are directed to the non-elected species. However, the Applicants note that independent claims 1, 19, and 35 are each generic, and submit that upon allowance of a generic claim, the withdrawn dependent claims must be considered.

The undersigned is available for telephone consultation at any time.

Respectfully submitted,



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